

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

HOPE IN SPITE OF DARKNESS Sunday School- August 12, 2012

Unifying Topic: GOD PROMISED A RIGHTEOUS LORD

Lesson Text

I. The Transition From Darkness To Light (Isaiah 9:2)

II. A Time Of Joy (Isaiah 9:3-5)

II. A Timeless Rule (Isaiah 9:6-7)

The Main Thought: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Discouraged people look for hope. Where can we find hope? Our hope is found in the coming Messiah who established a just and right kingdom.

Lesson Aim: To hear Isaiah's words as a warning of future invasion as well as a promise of deliverance by the Messiah.

Life Aim: To teach students about the hope they have in Christ and His kingdom.

9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

9:4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

9:5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

HISTORY:

Israel has turned from the Lord. She has ignored the repeated warnings of God's previous heralds. The cup of God's wrath has become full. The nation will be cast aside. The house of David will be rejected. The land will be ravaged, the cities destroyed, the people left desolate. The proclamation of a message of doom is the unhappy task of God's Prophet. However dispersed, among the repeated words of warning and destruction are brief messages of hope for those remaining hearts that have not turned from the Lord. Isaiah's preaching is to harden more and more hearts of those who have turned away from the Lord and at the same time set aside and strengthen a remnant unto Himself. Chapter nine verse one serves as a transition between the prophecy of gloom and darkness of Chapter eight because the light is promised in Chapter nine.

9:1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. – After the prophet has shown us that the people will be driven into darkness, he says,

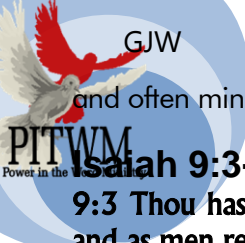
"Nevertheless", the dim times shall not be like the vexation and gloom of their first light affliction, nor of the more grievous affliction by the Sea in Galilee. The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali suffered greatly at the hands of the Assyrians who had invaded these two areas around 732 B.C. "Nevertheless" on the other hand, there's hope! Isaiah was saying, that when something bad happens in dim times; in gloom and darkness, being vexed and aggravated, something good is going to happen. A new day is coming! 2 Corinthians 4:17 says "For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Therefore, these two tribes Zebulun and Naphtali located next to the Sea of Galilee in the northern part of Israel of the twelve tribes of Israel will have their inheritance of the Promised Land.

LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2 The Transition From Darkness To Light

9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Because those that had walked in the darkness for so long by rejecting the Word of God, they dwelt in the land of the shadow of death. Zebulun and Naphtali as I said were the first to suffer from the invasion by the Assyrian king, but God's promise through this prophecy will show us that they now would be first to be made glorious. How would this be? The people who had formerly walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is why they would be "filled with glory" because when Jesus comes into the region of Galilee, the people who had walked in darkness would suddenly be bathed in the light. That light would be Jesus, for these would also be the territories in which Jesus grew up

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PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

and often ministered to (by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations 9:1).

Isaiah 9:3-5 A Time Of Joy

9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. — At the dawning of the light to come, the prophesy of Israel will be multiplied. God will make the true Israel a great host.

- Though the nations have multiplied, there are those that the joy has not increased within.
 - Sickness in the body has not changed because of a lingering illness, and sometimes that joy has not increased.
 - It has been diminished by one sore judgment after another, they haven't come out of the situation to be joyful yet.

However, they will rejoice before God in harvest time, for their hard work paid off.

And they will rejoice over blessings received when men divide the spoil from the victory that has been won in battle.

So, if those that have not received the light, and their joy has not increased, then when the gospel comes in, its light and power will bring joy along with it, and those who receive it correctly, without error do instantly rejoice. Their rejoicing will be a celebration of victory. Victory and triumph await the people of God.

9:4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian — The Prophet continues with the reasons for their joy. These are different figures, expressing the bondage and slavery of the law, sin, and Satan being broken because of the light that would shine upon them—their spiritual deliverance. The Assyrians would impose a yoke on the Israelites, but God would break that yoke off.

1. **The yoke** of his burden is the curved piece of wood which is a symbol of servitude; that burdened him.
2. **The staff** of his shoulder is the whole upper back expressing of subjection and servitude striking his shoulder.
3. **The rod of his oppressor** is an instrument used for beating, punishment or correction.

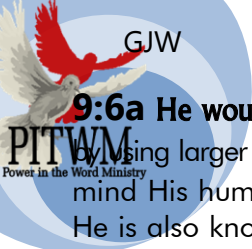
The real burden of all nations is sin and its corruption; departure from God, and all those who turn from God will lead to consequences. However, "*as in the day of Midian*" they will no longer be under the rod of their oppressors. Remember when Gideon got an entire victory over the Midianites, with a few unarmed men, by the sound of trumpets, and breaking of pitchers? (Judg. 7:16-22). You don't have to be great for God to use you. You don't necessarily have to have a lot of people to accomplish great things for God. If you feel small, powerless, and insignificant, you might be just the one God is looking to use. There is total victory when the great light of Jesus breaks burdens and oppressors.

9:5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. This is saying that other battles were usually won with a great deal of noise, and by the expense of much blood. But this battle shall be done silently and without noise. This victory which God's people shall have over all their enemies shall be more terrible to their adversaries, whom God will utterly consume, as it were by fire. The very garments of war and attire for battle shall be food for the fire, useful only for burning. The Message Bible reads: "the boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood, will be piled in a heap and burned." Watch God!

Isaiah 9:6-7 A Timeless Rule

9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. As we come from verse 5, ¹for our benefit, the Prophet saw in a vision the darkness and gloom of the nation, but now sees also the child that would be born to remove that darkness, and to enlighten the world. The child—the Messiah was not born when the Prophet spake, but in prophetic vision, as the events of the future passed before his mind, he saw that Promised Son, and the eye was fixed intently upon Him. Birth indicates the beginning of something. The end of war depends upon the coming of a person, a royal person yet one never explicitly called a king here.

¹ <http://bible.cc/isaiah/9-6.htm>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

9:6a He would appear as a child— " A child is born." but He is "a Son given!" God would not defeat Israel's enemies by raising larger more powerful armies, but it would be through the influence of a child to be born. ²A child is born brings to mind His humanity. A Son is given calls to mind His Deity and His Death. Even though Jesus was the "*Son of Man*," He is also known as the "*Son of God*." Notice that the Son is given. That which is given already existed. The little phrase "*is given*", which literally means "*to be delivered up*," reminds us that this God-man came into the world for a singular purpose. He came into this world to deliver Himself up as the ransom for sin on the cross of Calvary.

9:6b And the government shall be upon his shoulders - The word rendered "*government*" here, (mis'ra h), means His Empire. Here the government on the Messiah's shoulder is in opposition to the "*yoke and staff*" of the oppressor on Israel's "*shoulder*" (Isa 9:4). He shall receive the kingdom of the earth from the Father, to vindicate it from the misrule of those to whom it was entrusted to hold, and then be under the rule of the Most High. The Father asserts His right by the Son, the "*Heir of all things*," who will hold it for Him (Dan.7:13, 14). The rule of His Empire will be on the shoulders of Jesus. This will be fulfilled in the Millennium, when Jesus Christ will bear all rule of authority and responsibility upon the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 20:4-6, Ps. 72, Is. 2:1-4, Is. 11, Is. 65:17-25, Zech. 14:6-21). Let's talk about rule...

³Gayle Erwin writes about the government God promises, both ultimately and right now: What might such a government look like? First of all, it would look like its king.

- Politicians of this day look for what they can get from you. Jesus looks for what He can do for you.
- Leaders of this day surround themselves with servants. Jesus surrounds us with His servanthood.
- Leaders of this day use their power to build their empire. Jesus uses His power to wash our feet and make us clean.
- Leaders of this day trade their influence for money. God so loved that He gave . . .
- Generals of this day need regular wars to keep their weapons and skills up to date and insure their own advancement. Jesus brings peace and rest to hearts.
- Leaders of this day are desperate to be seen and heard. Jesus sought inconspicuousness so He could be useful.
- The higher the plane of importance one reaches in this world, the more inaccessible he becomes. Jesus is Emanuel, "God with us."

9:6c His name will be called...

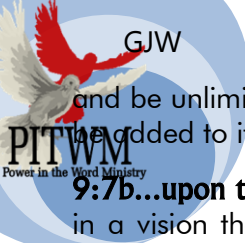
- **The Messiah is Wonderful:** The glory of who He is and what He has done for us should fill us with wonder. He has inconceivable methods of assisting us. His power is far beyond what we are able to comprehend. You will never be bored of Him, for He is Wonderful and will fill your heart and mind with amazement!
- **The Messiah is our Counselor:** Jesus is the One fit to guide our lives, and should be the Christian's immediate resource as a Counselor. Jesus can help you with your problems. Though a child, He has no need for counselors. He alone counsels those without counsel. He has a plan for man's salvation. His plan is laid in eternity. It is a plan according to God's love and mercy; having faultless discernibility. "*I must be about my Father's business.*"
- **The Messiah is Mighty God:** The God of all Creation and glory, the Lord who reigns in heaven. He's the One worthy of our worship and praise; having absolute authority!
- **The Messiah is the Everlasting Father:** The idea in these Hebrew words is that Jesus is the source and author of all eternity, that is, He is the Creator Himself. Here we clearly see how the throne of David, which is to be forever, is to be preserved. It will seat a ruler who Himself is Eternal; having endless longevity.
- **The Messiah is the Prince of Peace:** He is the One who makes peace, especially between God and man. It is only those who have grace that have peace. Rather than a warring monarch, He who is the Mighty God will be a benevolent Father, bringing a peace that will be eternally established in His kingdom; having enduring tranquility.

9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end... — ⁴His princely rule shall perpetually increase

² http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/Isa%209_6.htm

³ <http://www.studyight.org/com/guz/view.cgi?book=isa&chapter=009>

⁴ <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/henry/mhc4.ls.x.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

and be unlimited. It shall be multiplied; the bounds of His kingdom shall be more and more enlarged, and many shall be added to it daily. His peaceable and happy government shall be extended to all the ends of the earth.

9:7b...upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom – As we come from verse 5, ⁵for our benefit, the Prophet saw in a vision the darkness and gloom of the nation, but now sees also the child that would be born to remove that darkness, and to enlighten the world. The child—the Messiah was not born when the Prophet spake, but in prophetic vision, as the events of the future passed before his mind, he saw that Promised Son, and the eye was fixed intently upon Him. Birth indicates the beginning of something. The end of war depends upon the coming of a person, a royal person yet one never explicitly called a king here.

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PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

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SUMMARY:

It's time to come out of the darkness into the light. Jesus is the One who will bring this light. Zebulun and Naphtali have walked in darkness in the land of the shadow of death long enough.

The nations will be multiplied and the joy will be like the rejoicing in the time of harvest and over plunder taken in war. God breaks all human oppression as in the day of Midian (where Gideon achieves an improbable victory over Midian by the power of God [Jdgs.6-7]). Eventually the Lord will free Israel from bondage to Assyria, Babylon, and every other foreign power that has oppressed her. The world will no longer need the accessories of warfare because a time of universal peace will follow the return of Christ.

Isaiah presents the events as if it were the time of the child's arrival and an expectation of what He will achieve. Isaiah sees an increase of Jesus' rule and dominion; and describes His domain as with peace. During the Millennial reign of Christ, our Savior will rule and reign over all the earth. The government will rest on the shoulders of the Prince of Peace. And there shall be no end of either His government or of His peace. And this peace; this peaceful government shall be established and upheld with justice and righteousness. Isaiah focuses this Messianic hope on an heir of David who would extend His rule from Israel to include all the Gentiles. The virgin's Son will be the rightful heir to David's throne and will inherit the promise of the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam.7:12-16; cf. Ps.89:1-37; Matt.1:1). This is going to happen because the Lord of hosts has dedicated Himself to do it! The final victory is a miracle. The battle is not ours but God's (2Chro.20:15).

APPLICATION:

Will you take God at His Word and allow the hope He sends to bring you into the light? There is hope in spite of darkness because of the promise He gives—the Righteous Lord. Remember, in His Presence there is peace because He has already worked all things out for our good.